

**Amendment to the Specification:**

**Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following rewritten paragraph:**

[0001] This application is related to a continuation of the U.S. Patent Application No. 09/852,402, filed May 9, 2001, entitled "FRAMEWORKS FOR EFFICIENT REPRESENTATION OF STRING OBJECTS IN JAVA PROGRAMMING ENVIRONMENTS," (Atty. Docket No. SUN1P826/P6071) which is hereby incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.